

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. NO.: 4533-01
BILL NO.: HB 2044
SUBJECT: Education, Higher: Spinal Cord Injury Grants
TYPE: Corrected
DATE: February 29, 2000
#To correct bill number.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Spinal Cord Injury*	Unknown	(Up to \$220,000)	(Up to \$220,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds**	Unknown	(Up to \$220,000)	(Up to \$220,000)

*Subject to appropriations.

**Does not include unknown revenue from traffic case collections.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
None			
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 4 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **State Treasurer's Office** and the **University of Missouri** assume the proposal would result in no fiscal impact to the agency.

The proposal states that beginning in the 2002 fiscal year, the Board of Curators would utilize the first \$200,000 of moneys collected in the Spinal Cord Injury Fund for research projects. The proposal also states the Board of Curators could request additional funds for administrative overhead, not to exceed 10% of the annual appropriation of research funds. Therefore, the **Oversight Division** assumes the fiscal impact to the University of Missouri would be \$200,000 for research grants and \$20,000 ($\$200,000 \times 10\% = \$20,000$) for administrative overhead beginning in FY 2002.

Officials from the **Office of State Courts Administrator (CTS)** state the proposal would establish a spinal cord injury fund to be funded from a \$1 surcharge on seat belt violations. CTS states they do not currently track seat belt infractions as a separate charge code. The cost of tracking these offenses, which are almost always part of a larger traffic case, would approach the amount of money which might be collected. There were some 425,000 traffic and ordinance cases of all types disposed in FY99. Not all of these convictions, and only a relatively small proportion of these include a conviction of a seat belt offense. CTS states that when, and if, traffic tickets would be automated from law enforcement and prosecutors, it might be more feasible to track cases at this level of detail. A traffic ticket may charge a driver with speeding, defective equipment, and a seat belt violation. The case may be pled to some part of the charges with other parts being dismissed. CTS states that if the proposal is enacted they would include the requirement in the statewide court automation software and, as courts come up on the system, they would have the ability to track, collect, and disburse the fee; but, it would be some time before a large part of the state is up on that software for traffic.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
SPINAL CORD INJURY FUND			
<u>Income-Spinal Cord Injury Fund</u>			
Surcharges	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
<u>Cost-University of Missouri</u>			
Research Grants	\$0	(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)
Administrative Overhead	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$20,000)</u>	<u>(\$20,000)</u>
Total <u>Cost-University of Missouri</u> *	\$0	(\$220,000)	(\$220,000)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
ESTIMATED PARTIAL NET EFFECT ON SPINAL CORD INJURY FUND**	<u>Unknown</u>	<u>(Up to \$220,000)</u>	<u>(Up to \$220,000)</u>

***Subject to appropriation.**

****Does not include unknown revenue from traffic cases collections.**

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2001 (10 Mo.)	FY 2002	FY 2003
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

The Board of Curators of the University of Missouri would award funds to investigators for research projects that promote an advancement of knowledge in the area of spinal cord injury. Beginning in the 2002 fiscal year, the Board of Curators would utilize the appropriation in the Spinal Cord Injury Fund. The Board would request additional funds for administrative overhead, not to exceed 10% of the annual appropriation of research funds.

The Advisory Board, as appointed by the Board of Curators, would solicit and select proposals for research projects according to procedures approved by the Board of Curators. The selection procedures would provide for peer review of the background and ability of each investigator, the merits of the work proposed and an evaluation of the potential for each research project to achieve productive results.

The Board of Curators, with the recommendations of the advisory board, would award funds to selected investigators. Individual awards would not exceed \$30,000 per year and would expire at the end of one or two years. Investigators would be employees or staff members of public or private educational, health care, voluntary health association or research institutions which would specify the institutional official responsible for administration of the award.

DESCRIPTION (continued)

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Members of the advisory board and its peer review committee would be reimbursed by the Board of Curators for their actual expenses in providing services.

The proposal would establish the Spinal Cord Injury Fund. The first \$200,000 deposited in the fund would be appropriated to the University of Missouri for research projects. Any remaining funds would be subject to appropriation by the General Assembly.

A surcharge in the amount of one dollar would be assessed as costs in certain criminal cases and deposited in the Spinal Cord Injury Fund.

The Office of State Courts Administrator would utilize the statewide court automation system to implement a method of accurately tracking and recording the number of cases involving certain violations.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

University of Missouri
Office of State Courts Administrator
State Treasurer's Office



Jeanne Jarrett, CPA
Director
February 29, 2000